

REMARKS

Claims 18-22, 24 and 25 are currently pending in this application, Claims 1-17 and 23 having previously been canceled.

The drawings have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for allegedly failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In response to this ground of objection, Applicants have appended hereto an annotated copy of Claims 18, 19, 24 and 25 with reference numerals inserted to indicate where each element of the claimed combination is shown in the drawings. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all elements contained in the claims are shown in the drawings, and the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a), and the requirement for corrected drawings, are traversed.

In regard to this ground of objection, Applicants note that the Office Action contains no indication of which elements of the claims are believed to be missing in the drawings. Rather, it refers generally to the claim language of Claims 18-22, 24 and 25. Accordingly, if the Examiner continues to believe that any elements of claimed combinations are missing in the drawings, an explanation of which elements are believed to be missing is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-22, 24 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, based on certain formal issues indicated at page 4 of the Office Action. In particular, the Office Action notes that species of Figure 6 has been elected for examination in this application, and inquires how and where the elected structure (that is, the embodiment in which the openings are circular in shape) relate to the claim structure. In response to this ground of rejection, Applicants note that all of the claims presently in this application are generic. Accordingly, none of the claims is limited specifically to the elected embodiment in Figure 6. Nevertheless, all such claims are proper in this application, as all of them are readable on all of the species, including the elected species. (See, for example, Claim 20, which is cast in terms of a Markush group.) Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that each of Claims 18, 19, 24 and 25 is clear and definite.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion on page 4 of the Office Action, Applicants have amended Claim 25 at line 9 to insert the word "wire" between the words "conductive" and "films".

With regard to the observation at page 4 of the Office Action that Applicant claims "the conductive films is" (which is apparently perceived as grammatically incorrect), Applicants respectfully submit that the quoted words have been removed from context, and that used in context the grammar of this recitation is proper and clear. In particular, the last two lines of Claim 25, for

example, recite that “the exposed surface of the conductor wire films is covered with a solder whose main component is tin”. The subject of this clause is “the exposed surface” which is singular and is therefore consistent with the singular verb “is covered”. Accordingly, the meaning of this language is that the exposed surface is covered with a solder. The phrase “of the conductor wire films” modifies the words “the exposed surface”, and does not constitute the subject which goes with the verb “is covered”. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that both Claims 24 and 25 are clear and definite.

Finally, with regard to the observation at page 4 (last two lines) of the Office Action that Figure 6 shows a resistor, not a conductor, Applicants note that Figure 6 shows both a resistor 23 and the conductor 8, which is consistent with the drawing in Figure 5, in which the conductor is also designated by the reference numeral 8.

Claims 18 to 22, 24 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Aisenbrey (Published U.S. Patent Application No. 2005/0269727 A1), and Claim 22 has been additionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Aisenbrey. However, for the reasons set forth hereinafter, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims of record in this application distinguish over Aisenbrey, whether considered by itself or in combination with other references.

As an initial matter, Applicants note that the filing date of the Aisenbrey application (July 12, 2005) is later than the U.S. filing date of the present application (July 31, 2003) and its priority date (August 1, 2002). While the Aisenbrey published application is one of a series of continuation-in-part applications, tracing back to the original application filed February 14, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,741,221, the Office Action contains no discussion which indicates that the portions of the disclosure in the published application which are relied upon appear in the earlier continuation-in-part applications.

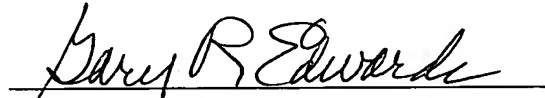
Submitted herewith is a verified translation of the present application. Accordingly, only the initial application Serial No. 10/075,778 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,741,221), constitutes prior art with regard to the present application, the perfected priority date of which is August 1, 2002. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the initial application (Serial No. 10/075,778) contains no disclosure which is relevant to the claims of the present application. Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 18-22, 24 and 25 based on Aisenbrey is overcome, and Applicants respectfully submit that the latter claims are now allowable.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general,

a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056208.52613US).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gary R. Edwards", is written over a horizontal line.

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Attachment – Annotated Claims 18-22, 24 and 25
Verified Translation of Application
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